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(*b*) whether the Malabar Adi-Dravida Jana Sabha sent representations to the hon. Minister to appoint a special Inspector for organizing and supervising Co-operative Credit Societies and Stores for the depressed classes; if so, what steps were taken in the matter?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information but will call for it.

(*b*) No such representation has been received.

Non-gazetted services.

Allowances granted to non-gazetted subordinate servants in the Wynad taluk.

435 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government were granting from 1885 an allowance equal to 50 per cent of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 to all non-gazetted subordinate servants employed in the Wynad taluk of the district of Malabar;

(*b*) whether the Government have discontinued this allowance entirely in the case of subordinates who are natives of, or domiciled in, Wynad and reduced it considerably in cases of other subordinates, with effect from 1st September 1923;

(*c*) whether the Government have received any memorial on the subject from the subordinate officers concerned;

(*d*) whether, having regard to the unhealthiness of the locality, the high cost of living, want of facilities for educating children and the necessity for warm clothing, the Government will be pleased to restore the 50 per cent allowance; and

(*e*) whether the Revenue Divisional Officer and the District Forest Officer of Wynad who are gazetted officers are even now allowed to draw monthly allowances of Rs. 150 and 100 respectively?

A.—(*a*) An allowance of 50 per cent of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 per mensem was granted in some cases; in others a lower rate was adopted.

(*b*) The allowance has been discontinued in the case of officers and subordinates who are natives of or domiciled in the Wynad. With effect from 1st September 1923 a revised scale of allowances applicable to the Wynad and other unhealthy localities has been introduced on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. The effect of this has been to increase the payment in some cases, to reduce it in others.

(*c*) Certain subordinate officers in the Registration Department have submitted memorials.

(*d*) No. The Government consider the scale of allowances adequate.

(*e*) Orders are under issue revising these allowances.

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member with reference to the answer to clause (*d*) of this question, whether the Government consider the scale of allowances adequate after any inquiry made after the question was received, or whether it is a mere expression of opinion of the Government after the memorial of the persons concerned?"

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The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" This is the result, Sir, of the scrutiny of the matter by the Retrenchment Committee and the Government."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to the answer to clause (*e*) of this question, may I know whether the orders issued to revise these allowances are for the purpose of cutting them down ? "

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

Law and Order in Malabar.

Mappillas confined in the Rajahmundry Jail.

436 Q.—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state why the ration given to Mappillas, confined in Rajahmundry Jail without being charged before or tried by a Court of Law, has been curtailed ?

A.—The rations of the prisoners in question have not been curtailed. Instead of granting them allowances under the Madras State Prisoners Regulation the Government are providing them with diet appropriate to their status in life.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, with your permission I should like to be allowed to make a few remarks about the answer to this Question, because, on going through the papers, I am not quite certain that the positive statement made in the first line of the answer is altogether justified, that is to say that the information justifies an answer in that form. The fact is that last June the Inspector-General of Prisons made a reference asking what scale of diet should be allowed to the Mappilla prisoners in the Rajahmundry Jail. We told him that they should be given as a general rule rice diet provided for ordinary convicts but that he should, however, see that those whose status warranted it should be given a diet appropriate to their position in life. We do not know at the present moment what scale of diet they are being given. Under those circumstances, perhaps I should better qualify my positive assertion that the rations of the prisoners have not been curtailed. I should therefore prefer to prefix to the first sentence of the answer already given : ' So far as the Government are aware '."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, apart from the question of rations which the hon. the Home Member has answered, I should like to know who are these prisoners detained in the Rajahmundry Jail, without being charged before, or tried by a Court of Law, and how many of these prisoners are detained in Rajahmundry."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, the prisoners are detained under the Madras State Regulation of 1819 and on the last occasion when I saw the papers connected with them, I think the number was about 70."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" If they are detained under the State Regulation referred to, will the Government be pleased to state why they are not giving them the allowance they are entitled to under the Regulation ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Because the Government are giving them their food in lieu of their allowance."